

SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

IN RE: FILING FEE FOR THE
ARKANSAS SUPREME
COURT AND COURT OF
APPEALS

Opinion Delivered October 26, 2006

PER CURIAM

Currently, the filing fee for an appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court or Court of Appeals in all civil actions and misdemeanors is \$100.00, which amount has been in place since 1981. The revenues generated from the filing fees are exclusively dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of the Arkansas Supreme Court Library. *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 21-6-401.

For most of the history of the library, the revenues from the filing fee and other miscellaneous sources were sufficient to support the library's operation. In recent years, however, a shortfall has developed and more and more state funds appropriated to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals for other purposes have had to be re-directed in order to continue a basic level of services. The Director and staff of the Arkansas Supreme Court Library have worked hard to streamline operations, reduce hardbound publications in this electronic age, and generally run a tight ship. In light of the persistent shortfall, we are now at a point where the current funding structure is no longer sustainable and additional revenue is required. The issue is whether we should increase filing fees, and if so, how much.

We have asked the Arkansas Bar Association to examine this situation and provide the court with its assessment. Likewise, we ask all members of the bar to consider the problem and provide us with their ideas. Any comments should be directed to Les Steen, Supreme Court Clerk, Attention: Filing Fee, Justice Building, 625 Marshall St., Little Rock, AR 72201, and should be submitted in writing no later than December 1, 2006.